

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244174

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS LONDON
OSLO PARIS VIENNA STOCKHOLM EC BRUSSELS OECD PARIS
ROME ZURICH FROM BERN NOV 4

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SZ

SUBJECT: SWITZERLAND AND IEP

NEF: BERN 4046

1. SWISS OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE ARE IN TOUCH CONTINUE BE
HOPEFUL THAT FEDERAL NOUNCIL NOV. 6 WILL APPROVE SWISS
PARTICIPATION IN IEP BUT THEY ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY
CAUTIOUS IN MAKING PREDICTIONS. APPARENTLY SOME OPPOSITION
HAS DEVELOPED WITHIN GOS AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL
ARTICLES IN RESPONSIBLE SWISS PRESS CRITICAL OF PARTICIPATION
AT THIS TIME IN IEP. COMMON THEME IS THAT SUCH
IMPORTANT DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN MORE SLOWLY WITH
KEY ROLE ALLOWED PARLIAMENT AND POSSIBLY EVEN POPULACE
THROUGH REFERENDUM. SOME ALSO OBJECT TO POSSIBLE EFFECT
ON SWISS NEUTRALITY, WHILE THOSE FAVORING A NON-INVOLVED
INDEPENDENT SWITZERLAND ALSO SEE THREAT IN IEP. NON-
PARTICIPATION BY FRANCE AND RECENT GISCARD PRESS CONFERENCE
ARE ALSO CITED. SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED SKETCHY TREATMENT IN
SWISS PRESS UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.

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2. DESPITE FOREGOING OFFICIALS ARE GOING AHEAD WITH

PREPARATIONS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT BRUGGER FOR
AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 6 AND SWISS DEL MAKING PLANS PROCEED
BRUSSELS FOR NOV 8 ECG MEETING.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN CONTACTS AT HIGHEST LEVEL
BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND OVER LAST FEW DAYS RE IEP,
AND PRESUMABLY DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AT GRINGE OF LAST WEEK'S
EFTA MINISTERIAL MEETING IN HELSINKI.

4. GOS OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR OPEN
LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH USG RE IEP NOTING THAT BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH ECG-DESIGNATED BRIEFING COUNTRY ITALY
CONSISTED OF PERFUNCTORY APPROACH TO SWISS EMBASSY ROME.
DAVIS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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